

5           1.       A control device for authenticating the identification of a user prior to access to a software application, the control device comprising:

          a)       a biometric signal acquisition module;

          b)       an area on the acquisition device through which the biometric acquisition module may obtain the biometric signal of a user of the control device; and

10           c)       a software interface for preventing access to a software application by unauthorized users.

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2. A method for preventing access to a software application the method comprising the steps of obtaining a base line biometric signal from an authorized user; (b) obtaining a current biometric signal from the current user attempting to access the software; (c) comparing the current biometric signal with the baseline biometric signal to determine whether the user is authorized to access the software; and (d) allowing access to the software if the comparison reveals that the current user is authorized to access the software.

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5           3.       A method for providing security to a network of computers, the method  
comprising of steps of (a) obtaining base line biometric signals for all authorized users of a  
network; (b) providing a biometric acquisition device at the location of each of the authorized  
users; (c) obtaining a current biometric signal from an individual attempting to access the  
network; (d) comparing the current biometric signal with the stored baseline biometric signal to  
10       determine whether the current user is authorized to access the network; and (e) allowing access to  
the network if the user is authorized.

15           4.       The method set forth in the claim 3 above further comprising the step of denying  
access to the network if the current user is not authorized.

20           5.       The method set forth in the claim 3 above further comprising the step of storing  
the biometric from an unauthorized user attempting to access the network and providing that  
biometric to the manager of the network.